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In the claims:

1-40. (Canceled)

41. (New) A method of operating a vehicle-mounted surveillance system including a camera and vehicle-mounted recording device that creates video recordings having a start time and a stop time, comprising:

capturing a stream of real time video of an area of surveillance using the camera;

processing the real time live video stream by imposing a surveillance system-imposed delay of a pre-set time interval on the live video stream to generate a time-delayed video stream, wherein the delay that is imposed is in addition to any delays caused by latency and other time-delays inherent in electronic devices that process video streams for a purpose other than imposing a delay; and

activating the recording device, upon an occurrence of an event at a reference time, to record the time-delayed video stream so that a video recording is created of the surveillance area and the start time of the video recording precedes the reference time by the pre-set time interval.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the pre-set time interval is user-adjustable.

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43. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the pre-set time interval is greater than about 5 seconds.

44. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the pre-set time interval is between about 5 to 10 seconds.

45. (New) The method of claim 41 further comprising receiving a user-defined value for the pre-set time interval.

46. (New) A method of recording an event witnessed by an officer using a vehicle-mounted surveillance system that includes a camera and vehicle-mounted recording device, comprising:

capturing a continuous stream of real time video of an area of surveillance using the camera;

delaying the real time video stream by a system-imposed pre-set time interval to create a time delayed video stream, wherein the system-imposed pre-set time delay is equal to or greater than a reaction time required by the officer to initiate recording after witnessing the event; and

in response to an action performed by the officer after witnessing the event, recording the time delayed video stream onto a storage medium using the recording device.

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47. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising
receiving a user-defined value for the system-imposed pre-set time delay.

48. (New) The method of claim 46 wherein the system-
imposed pre-set time delay is greater than about 5 seconds.

49. (New) The method of claim 46 wherein the system-
imposed pre-set time delay is between about 5 and 10 seconds.

50. (New) A video recorder adapted for use in a vehicle-
mounted surveillance system, comprising
an input interface for receiving a real time video stream from a
video source;
a processor to process data representative of the received real time
video stream and for writing the data to storage and reading the data from storage
so as to create a time delayed version of the real time video stream that is delayed
by a processor-imposed pre-set time interval that is greater than about 5 seconds;
a memory coupled to the processor to temporarily store the
processed data for the processor-imposed pre-set time interval; and
a recording device for recording video and audio onto a storage
medium, the recording device being coupled to the processor for receiving the
time delayed version of the real time video stream.

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51. (New) The video recorder of claim 50 wherein the processor-imposed pre-set time interval is between about 5 and 10 seconds.

52. (New) The video recorder of claim 50 further comprising a user interface for selecting the processor-imposed pre-set time interval.